

*AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS*

Cancel claims 19, 20, 22, 23, 28-31, 33, and 37-39, without prejudice.

Rewrite claims 18, 21 and 32, as follows:

1. (Original) A yarn feeder for positive feeding of yarns comprising: a yarn feed wheel that is rotatably supported about a pivot axis on a carrier, a drive mechanism for rotatably driving the yarn feed wheel, said yarn feed wheel comprising a single piece that includes a laterally extending yarn inlet region, a laterally extending yarn storage region, and a laterally extending yarn payout region, said yarn inlet region having a circular cross section at each lateral point that is concentric to the pivot axis with a diameter which decreases along the pivot axis in a lateral direction toward the storage region, said yarn payout region having a circular cross section at each lateral point that is concentric to the pivot axis with a diameter which increases along the pivot axis in a lateral direction away from the storage region, said storage region having contact regions for the yarn that are spaced apart from one another, said contact regions of the storage region of the yarn feed wheel each having a cross section which at least in some portions deviates from a circle that is concentric with the pivot axis, and said yarn inlet region, yarn storage region, and yarn payout region merge with one another without shoulders or steps which can impede lateral movement of yarn from the inlet region to the storage region and from the storage region to the outlet region.

2. (Original) The yarn feeder of claim 1, wherein the yarn inlet region of the yarn feed wheel comprises a closed surface.

3. (Original) The yarn feeder of claim 1, wherein the yarn inlet region of the yarn feed wheel forms an angle with the pivot axis that is greater than 60.degree..

4. (Original) The yarn feeder of claim 1, wherein the yarn payout region of the yarn feed wheel comprises a closed surface.

5. (Original) The yarn feeder of claim 4, wherein the yarn payout region of the yarn feed wheel is embodied as a closed conical surface with a circular conical contour whose radius of curvature is shorter than the radius of the yarn feed wheel.

6. (Original) The yarn feeder of claim 4, wherein the yarn payout region of the yarn feed wheel is embodied as a curved surfaced located on a torus, whose radius of curvature is shorter than the radius of the yarn feed wheel.

7. (Original) The yarn feeder of claim 1, wherein the storage region disposed between the yarn inlet region and the yarn payout region has a substantially closed surface configuration.

8. (Original) The yarn feeder of claim 1, wherein the storage region has a polygonal cross section concentric with the pivot axis at every point, and the polygon defined by the cross section of the storage region has straight edges.

9. (Original) The yarn feeder of claim 1, wherein the storage region has a polygonal cross section concentric with the pivot axis at every point, and the polygon defined by the cross section of the storage region has non-straight edges.

10. (Original) The yarn feeder of claim 1, wherein the cross section of the storage region is defined radially on the outside by rounded bearing regions, between which the outer surface of the storage region extends radially inward, and convex surface regions are formed between adjacent bearing regions.

11. (Original) The yarn feeder of claim 1, wherein the cross section of the storage region is defined radially on the outside by rounded bearing regions, between which the outer surface of the storage region extends radially inward.

12. (Original) The yarn feeder of claim 1, wherein the cross section of the storage region is defined radially on the outside by rounded bearing regions, between which the outer surface of the storage region extends radially inward, and planar surface regions are formed between adjacent bearing regions.

13. (Original) The yarn feeder of claim 1, wherein the yarn feed wheel has a base body comprising ceramic, sapphire, quartz, diamond-containing material, nitride or carbide.

14. (Original) The yarn feeder of claim 1, wherein the yarn feed wheel has a base body coated with enamel, ceramic, sapphire, quartz, diamond-containing material, nitride or carbide.

15. (Original) The yarn feeder of claim 1, wherein the yarn feed wheel has a base body comprising metal.

16. (Original) The yarn feeder of claim 15, wherein said metal base body has a coating containing oxygen and a further component different from the base material.

17. (Original) The yarn feeder of claim 1, wherein the yarn feed wheel has an end wall on the one side that is provided with a central bore, with which the yarn feed wheel is received by a shaft.

18. (New) The yarn feeder of claim 1 in which said yarn feed wheel comprises a one-piece body that is deep drawn and shaped from a metal blank.

19-20. (Canceled)

21. (New) A yarn feeder machine comprising a rotatably mounted yarn feed wheel for positively feeding yarn through the machine, a drive mechanism having a drive shaft for rotatably driving said yarn feed wheel, said yarn feed wheel comprising a single-piece, seamless, hallow, metal body deep drawn and shaped from a metal blank, said body including a laterally extending yarn inlet region, a laterally extending yarn storage region having a diameter less than the inlet region about which yarn is wound, and a laterally extending yarn payout region; said yarn inlet region having a shape that decreases in a lateral direction toward the storage region; said body having an end wall that merges into said yarn payout region and is formed with an opening along a central axis of the yarn feed wheel for receiving said drive mechanism drive shaft, said body being open at an end opposite said end wall; said yarn inlet region having a circular cross section at each lateral point that is concentric to the central axis with a diameter which decreases along the central axis in a lateral direction toward the storage region, said payout region extending in a lateral direction away from said storage region and having a circular cross section at each lateral point that is concentric to the pivot axis with a diameter which increases along the pivot axis in a lateral direction away from the storage region such that yarn wound onto the wheel can laterally progress from the yarn inlet region, across the yarn storage region, and away from said yarn payout region; and said yarn inlet region, yarn storage region, and payout region merge smoothly with one another without shoulders, steps, or interruptions which can impede lateral movement of yarn from the inlet region to the storage region and from the storage region to the outlet region.

22-23. Canceled).

24. (New) The yarn feeder of claim 23 in which the diameter of said yarn storage region is defined by the outer perimeter of a plurality of circumferentially spaced ribs.

25. (New) The yarn feeder of claim 21 in which said yarn feed wheel has an outer protective coating.

26. (New) The yarn wheel of claim 25 in which said outer coating is enamel, ceramic, sapphire, quartz, diamond-containing material, nitride or carbide.

27. (New) The yarn feed wheel of claim 21 in which said body is formed of aluminum.

28-31. Canceled

32. (New) A method of making a yarn feed wheel comprising the steps of providing a metal blank, and deep drawing the metal blank in one or more shaping steps to form a single-piece, seamless, hollow metal body that includes an end wall with a central opening for receiving a drive shaft, a yarn inlet region, a laterally extending yarn storage region having a diameter less than the diameter of said yarn inlet region about which yarn can be wound, and a laterally extending yarn payout region adjacent an end of said body opposite said yarn inlet region with walls of said regions merging smoothly without shoulders, steps or interruptions which can impede lateral movement of yarn from the inlet region to the storage region and from the storage region from the storage outlet region.

33. (Canceled)

34. (New) The method of claim 32 including coating said one-piece metal body after said shaping steps.

35. (New) The method of claim 33 including providing said metal blank made of aluminum.

36. (New) The method of claim 35 including coating said metal body after said shaping steps with enamel, ceramic, sapphire, quartz, diamond-containing material, nitrate or carbide.

37-39. (Canceled)

40. (New) The yarn feeder of claim 21 in which said inlet, storage and payout regions each have a uniform wall thickness.

41. (New) The method of claim 32 including forming said inlet, storage, and payout regions of said body with a uniform wall thickness.